

25 Jan 70

Dear Hal,

Belated best new year wishes, my friend! Sorry to have been silent for so long... 1969 not at all a good year here, except that STEPPENWOLF finally (after nearly 5 years) in the black. But the year also saw my father slowly lose ground against that most hideous disease cancer...until death took him, mercifully, in December. Not at all pretty, I dare say.

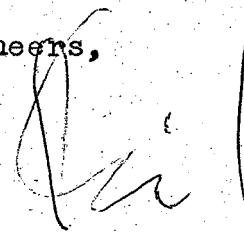
For all that, we now look to 1970...but optimism, frankly, is difficult. Politics in America is especially dismal in outlook. Murder (that's all one can call it) of the Panthers in Chicago...one more clear indication of the obvious shift to the Right. Our Attorney General Mitchell one of the most terrifying men in public life, in my opinion.

And this clip...suggests even ole' Sen. Russell now having some second thoughts about the "findings" of the Warren Commission.

No, sir; little reason for optimism.

Still, warmest regards to you & Lillian—I do think of you often, even if long spells between notes.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John" or "J. R.", is written over the word "Cheers".